



THE
JEWISH
DAILY

FORWARD

FEBRUARY 1984

SHEVAT / ADAR I 5744

Date Set for Dedication

THE WEEKEND OF EVENTS being planned to formally dedicate our Synagogue is now planned for the weekend of May 18, 19 and 20. As reported in last month's *Forward*, this weekend is being planned to include several events, culminating in a community celebration on Sunday afternoon, May 20.

Talia Shafir has taken over as chair of the Building Dedication Committee, replacing Mike Zimmerman. Our thanks to Mike for getting the committee off to a good start. Please contact Talia at 668-2303 if you would like to work with the committee on planning this joyous occasion.

Building Committee

Wish List Unveiled

The Building Committee has been heavily involved in dealing with the inevitable hassles that new ownership of a decades-old structure bring: plumbing, roofing, heating, pest control, etc. We are pleased to report that substantial progress has been made and that our new home is in far better condition than when we first took ownership.

The improvements made to date, however, are not easily visible; nor are they particularly exciting. But now that we have completed much of the glamorless but necessary repairs, the Committee is turning its attention to the task of turning our house into a *home*. Towards this end, we will be working with a professional consultant to help us prepare an attractive interior color scheme, as well as recommendations for window treatments, light fixtures, etc. Until we are certain of our plans, we will continue to request that members of the Congregation postpone any donations of a decorative nature for another three months. However, there is much that members can do to satisfy their burning philanthropic instincts while they are waiting.

The Committee is preparing the Sha'ar Zahav Wish List, in conjunction with other committees, for presentation to our membership. This list will include all of the items and services we want for our new home, including some that we need desperately.

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Tzedakah Comes of Age

TZEDAKAH BEGINS AT HOME. We now have a home — Let tzedakah begin!

The members of Sha'ar Zahav share the belief that we are not just members of a synagogue, but are part of a Jewish family providing ritual, spirit, study, culture and social interaction to those who identify with us. However, to provide these things to our community is often a struggle, because, as Irene Ogus was quoted during the Building Campaign: "Our members have been cut off from a basic Jewish tradition — giving (tzedakah). They've been isolated so long that they forgot their parents and grandparents gave to their synagogues." (This quote appeared in Bill Mandel's column in the *S.F. Examiner*.)

And so well did this description apply to me. Because my parents gave to their congregation, I didn't have to. Then, 20 years ago, I stopped associating with their congregation when I began graduate school — resulting in mutual alienation. As a gay man, I had found nothing in their congregation to envelop me with a sense of belonging. In 1963, I was in main-stream religious perigory — too old for youth group, too young for brotherhood, unmarried and running from questions about my personal life and its future — especially as concerned organized Judaism.

Because I had never remained with their congregation long enough to become a member and a giver, I never practiced tzedakah. Some 20 years later, I joined Sha'ar Zahav with my lover as a family unit — something which I certainly could not have done in my parent's synagogue. About the second week after we joined, Paul Cohen mentioned in a conversation that Sha'ar Zahav is also different from most congregations in that many of our members do not consider the Congregation as the primary recipient of their charity. And, in fact, at that time, I didn't need much from the Congregation — a little socializing or an occasional service — so we gave only the minimum.

However, when I began to work with the Congregation, I began to see that it was serving the needs of members in differing ways. Each of us calls upon the Congregation at different times for various purposes: for help when you're sick, for a weekly spiritual connection, for continuing Jewish identification, for social and cultural involvement, as an avenue for gay and lesbian identification, etc. The more I realized these things, the more a little phrase

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Mike's Column

CSZ Goes to Grossingers

ONLY A LOW FENCE, easily climbed, separated the softball diamond on the American Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from the mine field that surrounds the land area of the base.

The young sailor brooded all afternoon about the stern judgment he received that morning from the base chaplain. Finally, during the fifth inning, he dropped his glove, ran to the fence, hesitated, climbed over, walked purposefully out into the mine field — and froze. Seconds later, a shipmate who had been keeping a worried eye on him throughout the game jumped the fence and ran to his buddy. He put his arms around him and held him, gently but firmly, until the demolition expert with a map of the mine placement could lead them to safety.

A near tragedy, one I witnessed as a Navy Medical Officer in Cuba in the 60's. I told that story to the Hillel directors at their national meeting at Grossingers, New York, in December because I wanted them to be aware of the importance of knowing what you're doing when counseling men and women who are college age. It's a stressful time at best: trying to decide who you are, what profession you'll choose; trying out new-found independence; deciding what is important in your life. When one is gay or lesbian, the stresses may be even greater.

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All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll, Irene Ogus and Leila Raim (editorial and production), Bart Benderoff, Allan Berenstein, Frank Hyman, Sam Thal and Alan Schrager (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Cole Valley Graphics and printed by Lou Greene.

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Display Ads are \$10 per column inch with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads (for members only) are \$1.00 for up to 20 words, additional words at 5¢ each.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, PO Box 5640, San Francisco, California 94101, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

I think the Hillel staff was already aware of that. Gay and lesbian students are coming into their centers in increasing numbers, and they want to be as receptive and helpful to them as they are to non-gay students. So I was invited to spend some time talking with them about Judaism and homosexuality in general, and about gay Jewish students in particular. I think it was a good experience for the rabbis and their staffs. I know it was for me.

It was important for them at the beginning to see gay and lesbian Jews as individuals, as "real people" if you will, not as abstractions known as homosexuals. So I began the first session by showing a number of slides of our Congregation's life and history, slides taken by Sam Thal and Frank Hyman. They saw pictures of us filling the sanctuary of the 800-seat Unitarian Center on Yom Kippur. They saw us picnicking on Angel Island, marching up Market Street on Gay Day, visiting nursing homes to bring the Jewish holidays to isolated elderly residents. I had pictures of our seders at the ever-tasteful Holiday Inn, and of Tashlik and horas on the Golden Gate Bridge. There were even a few of the Rolls Raffle!

When the slides were over and the lights came on, there was a moment of silence. Clearly, many of them had not thought of us in these ways. A rabbi spoke: "The kids in my office are in such pain about their homosexuality. And yet, in your pictures I see only people smiling and laughing. What in the world is the difference?!"

The difference, I said, is that the people in the slides have come out, and have "come home" to a mishpucha, to an extended family, a "caring community" which is what Sha'ar Zahav and all the "gay synagogues" try so hard to be.

I covered the recent scientific literature on homosexuality, debunked the myth of the lonely, aging gay, and cleared up some other misconceptions.

We spent a lot of time talking about the "coming out" process. I stressed the importance of finding good role models and a good support group during that special time in a gay person's life, and I suggested they encourage their gay students to become involved in gay/lesbian synagogues in their areas. The conference participants were given a list of all the synagogues and other groups in the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations, and also a list of the gay/lesbian health profession organizations around the country and in Canada. Suggested readings and bibliographies were also handed out.

The ensuing discussion was open and lively. Once I was asked if we weren't concerned about the declining Jewish birth rate, and its implication for the survival of the Jewish people. "Gay people don't have children, of course," they said!

"Why, indeed we do!" sez I. Some of us have children from current or previous marriages or relationships, and others have adopted children. Furthermore, in our efforts on behalf of the Jews of Ethiopia, and in our bringing back scores of gay men and lesbians from assimilation to active participation in Jewish life, we also help ensure the survival of the Jewish people. For that matter, those who are involved in feeding the hungry and in efforts to prevent a nuclear Armageddon are ensuring the survival of *all* people — Jews included.

"Why do you need a separate synagogue for gays?" they asked.

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Men's Brotherhood Forming

A NEW SHA'AR ZAHAV MEN'S BROTHERHOOD is now in its planning stages and will be meeting to organize group activities such as sporting events, brunches, weekend trips, etc. Your input into the Men's Brotherhood is requested at its first organizational meeting, which will be held Tuesday, February 7, at the home of Ron Gelb, 4625 18th Street, at 7:30 p.m. We will be exploring the range of activities of our Brotherhood and will be discussing several exciting ideas for a first activity. All men in the Congregation are invited to attend. Please call Ron for further information at 558-8278.

Education Committee

Our Program Begins

Following some organizational meetings, the Education Committee is pleased to announce that their program will be beginning immediately with two initial offerings:

First, a course in Beginning Hebrew Reading has been organized to give participants competency in the Hebrew used in Sha'ar Zahav's Friday night services. The class is currently scheduled to meet on Wednesday evenings in the Synagogue, from 6:30 to 8:00, beginning on February 8 and running through March 28. The teacher will be Debbie Lieberman. She is an experienced Hebrew teacher and lived in Israel for several years. The fee for this eight-week course is \$12 for members and \$20 for nonmembers.

Second, an ongoing Meditations and Explorations Group will be meeting on the third Friday of each month just before Services, at about 7:45 p.m. These sessions are envisioned to help participants get ready for Shabbat in various ways. The first session is scheduled for January 21, with Talia Shafir leading various Shabbat songs. The second meeting will feature Mike Rankin leading a guided meditation session. The Committee welcomes suggestions as to further topics or leaders for future sessions.

For information regarding either of these groups or the Committee itself, please contact its new Chair, Joanne Woolf at 821-6109. The Education Committee's next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, February 1, at 7:30 p.m., in the Synagogue.

Women's Chavurah

Fun & Games Afternoon

The Women's Chavurah is having an afternoon of games (and fun) on Sunday, February 5 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Nanci Stern's home, 4665 18th Street. Bring your favorite games, something to snack on, and something to drink. All women are invited to attend.

A committee meeting of the Women's Chavurah will be held on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the same address.

Social Action Committee

JCF Telethon Needs Us

On Sunday, March 4, the Congregation will again participate in the annual Super Sunday Telethon conducted by the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma counties. In 1983, over \$1.1 million was raised to meet the ever increasing social and educational needs in the Jewish community. About half of the funds raised go to Israel (for non-military use); the other half remains here and is distributed to various social service agencies. This is the major Jewish community fundraising effort of the year, and we are pleased that the organizers have again asked Sha'ar Zahav to participate.

Prior to 1982, Sha'ar Zahav was never included in this important community event. We protested and received an invitation the following year. Thus, we participated in both 1982 and 1983 with a small group. This year, we have been asked for at least 15 volunteers, which will be one of the larger contingents. We should all be pleased at this increased recognition of our Congregation. We will be at the Telethon along with leaders and representatives from all the other Jewish organizations in the area. All too often, it seems that we are somewhat blocked from complete involvement in our Jewish community. In talking with the other volunteers and proudly showing our Congregation's presence, we will be chipping away at that block just a little bit more.

Volunteers need to commit three hours of their time: one hour of training and two hours staffing one of the 130 phones located in the Fairmont Hotel Grand Ballroom. The Fairmont provides quite a culinary spread for the Telethon as well, running the course of the day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. If interested in volunteering, please contact me at 621-3930, no later than February 10, which is the pre-registration date.

Incidentally, at the December JCF planning meeting, all of us present publicly introduced ourselves and the organization we were representing. I almost felt a celebrity status afterwards as several people came up to me to ask if we were that congregation that had acquired the new building and to offer congratulations.

* * *

The next meeting of the Social Action Committee will be at the Synagogue on Thursday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m. While we're eager for new committee members (and which committee isn't?), please feel free to attend just to "check the committee out" and decide to what extent, if any, of involvement you desire.

At our January meeting, it was felt that the following would be among the activities the Committee might undertake to organize in the future:

- A speaker's bureau where CSZ members speak at other organizations and where other individuals speak at our Congregation on topics of interest. (Being an election year, we think a candidates' night might be appropriate down the road.)
- Food collection for people with AIDS, elderly and the needy within the Gay/Lesbian and Jewish communities.
- Political awareness and legislative update.

— Ron Lezell, Chair

Wish List *(continued from page 1)*

You will be seeing a lot of the Wish List in future issues of the *Forward*. For now, here is our First Priority List of those items which must be purchased immediately, together with an estimate of costs:

Smoke and fire alarm system	\$1,500 -2,000
Telephone installation (already donated)	125
Folding or stacking chairs (50)	20 each
Six-foot folding tables (4)	70 each
Interior paint (30 gallons)	15 each
Exterior paint & labor	7,500 (approx.)
Painting equipment	250
Aluminum step ladders (2)	100 & 200
Aluminum extension ladder	150
Window treatments (One room)	100 -250 each
Vacuum cleaner (already purchased)	125
Office space heater (already purchased)	65
Large bulletin boards (2)	100 each
Blackboard	230
Outdoor ashtray	35
Table clothes	200
Laundry service (1 year)	500

Anyone wishing to contribute money toward the acquisition of one, several or all(!!!) of these items should contact any member of the Building Committee, its Chair, David Gellman (621-2966), or David Stein, our Treasurer & Chancellor of the Exchequer (648-4818).

Here's your big chance to contribute towards the purchase of that special folding chair, that exquisite gallon of paint you've had your eye on since Tisha B'Av, or — be still my beating heart — the vacuum cleaner you wanted for your sixth birthday when you got that dumb pony instead!

— David Gellman, Chair

CSZ Donates to AIDS Ward

S.F. General Hospital has requested community assistance in stocking Ward 5B's refrigerator (donated by the S.F. Police Department) with goodies for the patients. Sha'ar Zahav, as well as other caring people in the community, has responded to this appeal. A letter of love, concern and support has been sent to the patients along with a Sha'ar Zahav check for \$250 from our Phooey on AIDS Fund.

Jewish Housemate Service

*No fee til first match
Laura, 486-8281, 12:30-6:30 p.m.*

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all amounts, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward*, unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the last couple of months by the following contributors:

For the General Fund —

Eli Weinstein

Allan Lipman, in appreciation of CSZ

Sharyn Saslafsky, in honor of Aaron & Eric

David Stein & Alex Ingersoll, Mazal Tov to Irene Ogus, Aaron Cooper & Eric Keitel; thanks for Chanukah to Mark Mendelow; for a speedy recovery by Albert Stein; in memory of Bart Benderoff's mother; in honor of Leslie Bergson's birthday

Ron Lezell, in memory of Eugene Earl

Klara & Larry Silverstein, in honor of their daughter Sharon

Duff Kreitzberg, in memory of his Aunt, Julia Horowitz, who died in early December

Renee Lipschutz, in memory of A. Martin Lipschutz, her husband and Marc's father

Sandra Douglass & Victoria Coad, as a Chanukah present for Nanci Stern

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Bart Benderoff's mother; in honor of Dana Radetsky earning her master's degree

For the Building Fund —

Barry Siegel

Sharyn Saslafsky, in honor of Aaron & Irene

For the Prayerbook Fund —

Terry Rothchild

Don Albert, for a complete and speedy recovery by Monroe Albert

Allan Berenstein, Refuah Shelema for Mr. & Mrs. Monroe Albert; Refuah Shelema for David Stein's father; in memory of Mark Mendelow's grandmother; in honor of Joyce Berenstein, Esq. being admitted to the California Bar; in honor of Irene Ogus, Aaron Cooper & Eric Keitel; in honor of Shelley & Gabrielle's 10th Anniversary.

Alex Ingersoll & David Stein, in memory of Eugene Earl

Mark Mendelow, in memory of Richard Umhoefer

Terry Rothchild & Lynn Taylor, toward reprinting our prayerbooks

For the Phooey on AIDS Fund —

Richard Ditewig

Steve Greenberg, in honor of Eric, Aaron & Irene

For the Harvey Milk (Social Action) Fund —

Cheryl Orvis, in honor of Aaron, Eric & Irene

The last list of contributions was published in the July issue of the *Forward*. Our thanks (and apologies) to any person who made contributions to the Synagogue in the interim and whose name has been overlooked in this acknowledgement. Contributors to our very successful Building Campaign were listed in the July, August and September issues of the *Forward*, and a complete listing of those contributors will be published as part of our building dedication next spring.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			28 Shevat 1 Education Comm. 7:30pm	29 2 Rosh Chodesh A Building Comm. 6:30pm	30 3 Rosh Chodesh B	1 Adar I 4
2 5 Women's Chavurah Fun & Games 2:30pm - 4665 18th	3 6	4 7 Women's Chavurah 7:30pm - 4665 18th Men's Brotherhood 7:30pm - 4625 18th	5 8 Hebrew Course 6:30pm	6 9 Social Action Comm. 7pm	7 10 Newsletter Deadline	8 11
9 12	10 13 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm	11 14	12 15 Hebrew Course 6:30pm	13 16	14 17	15 18
16 19	17 20	18 21	19 22 Hebrew Course 6:30pm Newsletter Comm. 648-4818	20 23 Ritual Comm. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, #1705	21 24	22 25
23 26	24 27 Finance Comm. 5:30pm PR Comm. 7pm	25 28 East Bay Lunch Group 921-7846	26 29 Hebrew Course 6:30pm			

February Ritual Calendar

- Friday,
February 3 **Shabbat Rosh Chodesh**
Torah: Terumah, Ex. 25:1-27:19
Special Torah Reading: Num. 28:9-15
Special Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-24
Jon Funk and Ron Lezell, Services
- Friday,
February 10 **Torah:** Tetzaveh, Ex. 27:20-30:10
Haftarah: Ezekiel 43:10-27
Talia Shafir and Joanne Woolf, Services
- Friday,
February 17 **Torah:** Ki-Tissa, Ex. 30:11-34:35
Haftarah: I Kings 18:1-39
Garry Koenigsberg, Services
- Friday,
February 24 **Torah:** Va-Yakhel, Ex. 35:1-38:20
Haftarah: I Kings 7:40-50
Leslie Bergson and Wendy Weiss, Services

Services are held every Friday night at 8:15 at our new home, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

March Ritual Preview

- Friday,
March 2 **Shabbat Shekalim**
Torah: Pekudei, Ex. 38:21-40:38
Special Torah Reading: Ex. 30:11-16
Special Haftarah: I Kings 12:1-17
Eric Keitel, Services
- Friday,
March 9 **Torah:** Va-Yikra, Lev. 1:1-5:26
Haftarah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23
Steven Greenberg, Services

*Plan to join in
Our Purim Celebration
Megillah Madness II, the Sequel
Saturday, March 17
Swedish-American Hall
Watch March Forward for details*

Va'ad Report

THE JANUARY VÁAD MEETING was held on Monday evening, January 9, at the synagogue. President Mike Rankin unveiled his "six-month plan", his basic outline of congregational events that are upcoming over the remainder of his term as president. This helps give the Va'ad (and the Congregation) some perspective on what we're all planning to do, and when to begin working on those individual projects. One thing that we were all impressed with is that we are a very *busy* congregation. Considering that we only have one part-time paid office staffperson, we sure get a lot of things done! That is why active involvement of our members is crucial to the success of the Congregation. The more people that we get involved, the better we will be able to serve the needs of our family.

The Building Committee has prepared a wish list for items that the Synagogue needs over the next few months. Items range in price so that everyone will be able to contribute something. Plans are underway to improve the internal decor of the building, with interior painting being scheduled for completion prior to the dedication ceremony in May. The Building Committee proposed two House Rules which were passed as follows: (1) No smoking in any part of the Synagogue; and (2) No food or beverages allowed in the Sanctuary.

Allan Berenstein presented proposals from the Membership Committee regarding ways to make newer members of our Congregation feel more welcome and appreciated. Regrettably, Allan announced that Alita Rosenfeld was stepping down as co-chair of the Committee. The Va'ad is very appreciative of all of Alita's efforts over the past few years in co-chairing this very important committee. Seven new members were voted into the membership!

A major topic of discussion at the meeting was the upcoming dedication weekend. Talia Shafir presented preliminary plans as developed by the Dedications Committee. The Va'ad voted to have the event take place over the weekend of May 18-20. Events will include Friday evening and Saturday morning services, a community wide celebration on Sunday, and a possible party for our members on Saturday night. Stay tuned for further details on this.

Until next month...

— Eric Keitel, Recorder

Do You Know...

Why you need title insurance when you buy your home?

Your Attorney Can Help You Understand.

David R. Gellman, Attorney at Law

45 Franklin St., San Francisco 94102, 621-2966

Coming of Age (continued from page 1)

became an imperative: *Tzedakah matchilah b'veitenu* — Charity begins at home.

As the Congregation becomes the primary recipient of our members' tzedakah, more avenues can be opened for more people to feel even more at home. As our identity with our congregation deepens, our home grows; and as our concerns widen, our resources must grow to meet them. For instance, as I get older, I begin to be concerned with a gay/lesbian Jewish retirement community and a gay/lesbian Jewish cemetery space. My congregation will be the place where I can expect that these concerns will be addressed. In other words, as my sense of tzedakah is reawakened, my additional needs can be met.

I now recognize my needs which have been buried for so long. I also recognize that my situation is not so different in some ways from that of my parents and grandparents. Their giving to their congregations was to ensure that their needs would be met. Now, I must ensure that mine will also be met.

It presently costs CSZ roughly \$350 per person to provide space and personnel for prayer and study, and for social and cultural activities. And we're just beginning.

How do you relate to that figure? All of us, it says in the *Shulhan Aruch* (Code of Jewish Law), must contribute to charity according to our means. Even if we can give but very little, we should not refrain from giving it.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is our tangible Jewish identity. As CSZ becomes the primary recipient of our charity, the words of Isaiah ring true: "And before you shall go your tzedakah."

What can you give and how can you give it?

- **Dues.** Suggested dues commitments are roughly 1% of your gross annual income.

- **Puske Contributions.** The take from our weekly puske pitches constitute about 11% of our income. Until other contributions increase, the puske pitch continues to be our necessary evil.

Need an additional reason or opportunity to give? Why not honor someone for their birthday, their anniversary, their success, their return to health, their memory? You can make a contribution in someone's honor to:

- **Sponsor an Oneg** or part of an Oneg.
- Or you can designate your contribution to be a **gift to any of our funds:**

General Operating Fund.

Prayerbook Fund.

Congregational Discretionary Fund.

Phooey on AIDS Fund.

Building Fund.

Harvey Milk (Social Action) Fund.

Education Fund.

Our Congregation, Sha'ar Zahav, is coming of age. We have a home. We're developing a full spiritual, educational, social and cultural program. We have begun our maturity.

It's also time for each of us to come of age as well. We need to recognize that we are no longer alienated from our Jewishness. We are members of a congregation that helps us to realize our Jewishness and which practices it in our unique way.

We are now reconnected with our ancient Jewish traditions and can proudly observe the mitzvah of tzedakah.

— David Stein, Treasurer

Spring Blood Drive

NO BLOODY MARY JOKES PLEASE: On Saturday, March 10, the Women's Chavurah will be sponsoring CSZ's Spring Blood Drive at Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, preceded by a potluck Brunch at the home of Leila Raim and Catherine Wisniewski. According to tradition, our Sha'ar Zahav brothers will act as candy strippers and personal stereos will be available to aid the flow!

Brunch will be from 10 a.m. to noon. Last names beginning A-L, bring proteins; M-S, bring carbohydrates; and T-Z, bring beverages.

Blood donations will be made between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Shuttle service between Leila and Catherine's home and the Irwin Memorial will be available, if needed.

We hope to see many of you at Leila and Catherine's, 197 Beaumont Ave. (corner of Turk, one block east of Stanyan), and at the Blood Bank. It's a package deal: Come to both if possible.

Rabbi Search Report

STEP BY STEP, we are making progress. This month, press releases and advertisements are being sent to major Jewish and Gay publications around the country formally announcing our rabbinic search process and inviting interested rabbis to respond. This ad will be appearing in the *Forward* as well.

The next step is the formulation of a job description. The Committee wants to express its thanks to all the members who came to the Parlor Meetings or sent written responses. The thoughts and concerns expressed and ideas gathered are of great value to our task, and are being utilized, along with all the other data, in developing the job description. We hope to have that description ready soon — for submission to the Va'ad and publication in the *Forward*.

A Great Miracle Happened Here

This year's Chanukah celebration was a great success, due only to all the volunteers who once again proved that the spirit of cooperation is alive and well at Sha'ar Zahav. Special thanks to Lennie Brill and George Lucas, who organized the latke brigade; they were graciously assisted by David Stein, Steve Rosenbaum, Alex Ingersoll, and Peter Abinanti. Norman Lillian and Tom Rothgiesser did a great job setting up the dreidel tables and prizes, and were assisted by Joseph Feiner and Elliot Toporek. The homemade applesauce was made by Burt Tessler and Jimmy Wentworth and certainly could have won awards. Thanks to Larry Cohen and Jim Proctor III who set up the coffee and cake. Ron Lezell and Allyce Kimmerling were there to help with setting-up, while Bill Ashley-Dobbin did a superb job of cleaning up the kitchen, along with Wendy Weiss and Don. As always, the queen of P.R., Sharyn Saslafsky, got the word out for us (it was no accident that we had over 300 people that night). Thanks to Nancy Meyer who coordinated the enthusiastic folk-dancing beautifully. Lastly, thanks to Leslie Bergson and the Ritual Committee for a wonderful service (as always) and to Cheryl Orvis and Aaron Cooper who donated a portion of their proceeds from their sales that evening.

Mike's Column *(continued from page 2)*

To answer a question with a question, I responded: "In the synagogues you know, would my lover and I be called to the Torah together to celebrate the tenth anniversary of our relationship? If we adopted a little girl and brought her to the synagogue to be named, would the congregation you know sing 'Mazel Tov v Siman Tov' to us, and sponsor an Oneg Shabbat in her honor?"

Silence, followed by:

"How long do you think it will be necessary to have 'gay' synagogues?"

"That, friends and neighbors, is up to you, more than to me. But since we're on the subject of synagogues that have a particular relevance to our lives, let me share a few passages from our Yom Kippur liturgy, from the Yizkor Service."

And I read them the story of Eric, and the Kartenstrasse, the uniforms and the camps, the lavender triangle and the yellow star. I read "with David and Jonathan, we will not forget you! With Ruth and Naomi, we will not forget you! We ask that you be remembered for peace."

They were moved. And so was I, in the reading of it.

The morning session ended, and after lunch we had another. More good discussion, learning, good natured debate. Later, in a few private sessions, I met with individual rabbis to talk about students they were counseling. By and large, they were doing a first-rate job. They just needed a little more information, a few insights, an "expert" to tell them that what they were doing was exactly right.

On Wednesday, I drove to New York City to meet with Rabbi Leonard Schoolman, Director of Program for the UAHC. Whatever misunderstanding there was in the past seems now to be resolved. He is encouraging us to prepare a presentation on homosexuality and Judaism (with our sibling congregations in Los Angeles and Miami) for the 1985 Biennial.

He has appointed a member of our Congregation to the Biennial Planning Committee.

And he has asked us to review Union publications on homosexuality so that the inaccurate and offending passages will not appear in future editions.

All in all, quite a special December. Now on to 1984! May it be for all of us a year of health, of joy and of peace.

B'Shalom.

— Mike

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, March 4 — JCF Telethon
Monday, March 12 — Va'ad Meeting
Saturday, March 17 — Sha'ar Zahav's Purim Celebration
Monday, April 9 — Va'ad Meeting
Tuesday, April 17 — Congregational Seder (Second Seder)
Sunday, May 6 — Congregational Meeting and Elections
Sunday, May 13 — Israeli Independence Day at Stern Grove
Monday, May 14 — Va'ad Meeting
Friday, May 18 through Sunday, May 20 — Building Dedication Weekend

February Birthdays!

3	David Gass	23	Hal Heller
7	Mark Mendelow	25	Earl Diskin
14	Irene Ogus	25	Alex Ingersoll
14	Ron Wolberg	26	Rabbi Ben Marcus
15	Russell Discher	27	Leila Raim
17	Heather Talpin	29	Bruce Katz

February Yahrzeits

- 6 David Greenstein, Brother-in-law of Louis (Mickey) Bornstein and Uncle of Richard Bornstein
- 7 Lillete Wilkes, Mother of Shelley Fernandez
- 9 (6 Adar) Max Raim, Father of Leila Raim
- 10 Hyman Dolinsky, Grandfather of Naomi Baran
- 13 Anna Pearl Gilkey, Friend of Janice Macomber
- 15 Yetta Shuchat, Grandmother of David Stein
- 15 Ben Shuchat, Grandfather of David Stein
- 17 Abraham Spiro, Grandfather of Shelley Spiro
- 18 Dora Esther Rifkin, Mother of Herman Rifkin
- 19 (16 Adar) Joseph M. Cohen, Father of Paul Cohen
- 22 (17 Adar) Helen Pechter, Mother of Bernard Pechter
- 21 Evelyn Klein, Mother of Elliott Klein
- 21 Asher Liberman, Father of Shirley Liberman

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of December, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

- Dec. 9 — Gabrielle, in honor of her 10th Anniversary with Shelley Spiro
- Dec. 16 — Sarah Comerchero, in memory of her father
- Dec. 23 — Mike Rankin, in honor of the birth of his god-daughter, Erin Marie Hennessy
- Dec. 30 — Nanci Stern, in honor of the visit of her brother Robert; and Nanci Stern, Steve Greenberg, Garry Koenigsberg, Marc Lipschutz and Mike Rankin, in honor of Leslie Bergson's birthday

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Larry Cohen at an Oneg or call him at 493-0535 or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$30-40 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Classified Ads

GUITAR LESSONS: Learn to play what you hear around you and inside you. Learn songs, music theory and improvisation – painlessly. All levels. Have fun! I love to teach! Suzanne P. Shenbaum, 261-0791.

PROOFREADER for all kinds of publications, typography and manuscripts. Experienced freelancer, in East Bay or S.F. Call Janine Baer, 524-3586, for more information.

New Members for January

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained seven new members in January. A warm welcome to:

Mike Chriesman
Jonathan G.
Bob Goldware
Bob Mackey

Judy Macks
Paul Margolis
Jill Rose

These new members will be welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of January. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they are a valuable part of Sha'ar Zahav. Let's hope to welcome just as many new members on the last Friday in February as well, not to mention March, April, May....



CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, California
(415) 861-6932

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101

Officers: President, Mike Rankin; Treasurer, David Stein; Recorder, Eric Keitel

Va'ad (Board) Members: Don Albert, Allan Berenstein, Alex Ingersoll, Ron Lezell, Mark Mendelow, Nancy Meyer, Leila Raim, Jerry Rosenstein, Sharyn Saslafsky

Committee Coordinator: Mike Freedland

Committee Chairs: Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus; Building, David Gellman; Bylaws, David Gass; Education, Joanne Woolf; Elections, Betty Kalis; Finance, Tom Rothgiesser; Membership, Allan Berenstein; Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll; Oneg, Larry Cohen; Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky; Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper/Leila Raim; Ritual, Leslie Bergson; Social Action, Ron Lezell; Social Program, Mark Mendelow, Women's Chavurah, Chair shared by committee.

Office Manager: Susan Greenspan (Office is open Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.)